

ICGP update on measures in place for Traveller community to combat COVID-19

19 October 2020

The HSE is working on a range of measures in place for the Traveller community to combat COVID-19. Most recently, the HSE has produced a peer to peer video to Travellers from Travellers with the help of Pavee Point. This [new video](#) talks about the measures Travellers can take to protect themselves, their families and community from this disease. It also reaffirms the simple, but effective, public health advice on respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, physical distancing and masks are preferable than visors to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Further resources are currently in development for this audience.

Over 600 positive cases in the Traveller community have been reported nationally over the last two weeks to Public Health Departments. This number is an approximation, as the field 'Traveller' is not always completed, and we are actively working to improve the data recorded on CIDR. However, we do know that all regions are affected. Significant outbreaks have been recorded in Dublin, Limerick, North East, North West and West. The outbreaks are linked across regions especially in family networks.

Priority testing for people in the Traveller community is being provided by GPs with Public Health arranged enhanced mass testing in locations/halting sites with outbreaks via Safetynet, via SwiftQueue referrals and the National Ambulance Service. A high positivity rate among this community has been observed.

A National Traveller Outbreak Control Team has been convened by HSE National Public Health with representatives from HSE, Pavee Point, Dept of Housing, Local Authority Housing, Safetynet and other NGOs has begun to meet to support local outbreak control teams.

The HSE together with the Dept of Housing and the County and City Management Association has also developed a COVID-19 Preparedness Checklist to help identify areas that may need additional supports. The checklist aims to strengthen Covid-19 preparedness and infection prevention and control in authorised and unauthorised Traveller halting sites and Local Authority Traveller-specific Group Housing Schemes. A pilot of the COVID-19 Preparedness Checklist is underway in CHO 1 with a view to national rollout.

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/Bgshq2xhmq8>

For more information and resources go to: www.HSESocialInclusion.ie
Need information and advice on COVID-19? Go to www.hse.ie/coronavirus